

## IMPLEMENTATION OF COUNCIL MOTION: 2 JULY 2009

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Ray Puddifoot
<b>Cabinet Portfolio</b>	Leader of the Council
<b>Officer Contact</b>	Lloyd White, Head of Democratic Services
<b>Papers with report</b>	Appendix A – Party Leaders’ public commitments

### SUMMARY

On 2 July 2009, full Council resolved that the Council’s three Party Leaders re-state public commitments in respect of their local election campaigns to the March 2010 Cabinet meeting, with the intention of showing that their parties are making every effort possible to prevent any growth in support for the British National Party within Hillingdon.

### RECOMMENDATION

**That, in response to the Council Motion, Cabinet notes the position of Hillingdon’s three main political parties and the public commitments reaffirmed by their Party Leaders set out in Appendix A.**

### INFORMATION

On 2 July 2009, Council resolved the following motion tabled by Councillor Janet Gardner (Botwell) and, as amended, by Councillor Richard Lewis (Northwood):

*‘That this Council deplores the fact that two British National Party candidates have been elected to represent the interests of the United Kingdom in the European Parliament and believes that their divisive and ill-informed views are a danger to the cohesion of the nation.*

*Whilst welcoming the failure of the BNP to secure a seat in London, this Council is alarmed to see that it received 4689 votes from Hillingdon residents. It believes that this demonstrates that there can be no room for complacency as a result of the BNP’s lack of electoral breakthrough in London and that all of us here must work together to prevent them advancing in the 2010 Borough Council elections.*

*The three leaders of the main political groups in Hillingdon, (Cllrs Puddifoot, Khursheed & Cox) aspire to support a target of selecting appropriate candidates to all 65 vacancies at next years Hillingdon Council elections. Furthermore the three named leaders above also support a target of their parties delivering council election related material to at least 70,000 (70%) of all Hillingdon households and in the following wards, where the BNP have tried to establish themselves to all households:*

- West Drayton
- Yiewsley
- South Ruislip
- Manor

- *Harefield*

*In addition all the above named leaders write to the Head of Democratic Services in the week before the March 2010 Cabinet meeting in order that these commitments are publicly restated.'*

Members will be more than aware that the local election campaign begins in earnest in a few weeks time. To follow up the Council's decision of 2 July 2009, the Head of Democratic Services wrote to the three Party Leaders on the Council to ask them to restate their party's commitment in respect of supporting targets to:

- 1) field party candidates in all 65 seats;
- 2) deliver council related election material to at least 70% of households, in particular within the wards of West Drayton, Yiewsley, South Ruislip, Manor and Harefield where the British National Party have sought to establish themselves.

The public commitments returned by Councillors Puddifoot, Khursheed and Cox to the Head of Democratic Services are attached in Appendix A to this report.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Council Agenda and Minutes - 2 July 2009

## Appendix A

Responses of the three party Leaders referred to in the resolution of Council are listed below for Members' information (in the order they were received):

### **1. Liberal Democrat – Councillor Mike Cox:**

*“The Liberal Democrats wholly support the intention and purpose of the original motion as put forward by Cllr Gardener. We considered then and now the amendment by the Conservative group to be mischievous and wholly inappropriate. In the cold light of day the amended final paragraph is clearly contradictory. Whilst it starts by talking of aspirations, it finishes by assuming commitments.*

*You will appreciate we consider the current balance on Hillingdon Council to be grossly unfair and an insult to democracy. It has created an administration which is arrogant and selfish and which we believe does not act in the best interests of the people of Hillingdon.*

*Our primary commitment in this local election is to ensure that more Liberal Democrat Councillors are elected in Hillingdon which we will all work tirelessly to achieve.”*

### **2. Conservative – Councillor Ray Puddifoot:**

*“Further to the Motion to Council by Cllr Janet Gardner regarding the forthcoming local elections I write to confirm that the Conservative Group will be fielding 65 candidates and delivering the agreed volume of election material in the five wards detailed in the motion.*

*For the Hillingdon Conservative Group, as in all cases, this is about delivering on what we say rather than just aspiring to delivering.”*

### **3. Labour – Councillor Mo Khursheed:**

*“I Mo Khursheed Leader of the Labour Group in London Borough of Hillingdon confirm my commitment/support on behalf of my party (Hillingdon Labour Party) to a resolution which was debated and agreed at July 2009 council meeting.”*